

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03061 021420Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12
COME-00 MCT-01 IO-13 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 OES-07
HA-05 SSM-03 AID-05 /121 W
-----050550 021425Z /72
O R 021330Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8168
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3061

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, ASEC, LE
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION: JUNE 2, 1978 1300 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 2977 (DTG 301335Z MAY 78)

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT SARKIS MET WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD IN
LATAKIA. ARTILLERY EXCHANGES CONTINUED IN SOUTH LEBANON.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03061 021420Z

A TRIPARTITE LEBANESE-SYRIAN-PLO COMMITTEE MET TO DISCUSS
REDUCING THE PALESTINIAN ARMED PRESENCE IN SOUTH LEBANESE
CITIES. A PFLP SPOKESMAN SAID HIS ORGANIZATION MIGHT RE-JOIN
THE PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. RIVAL CHRISTIAN GROUPS CLASHED
AGAIN. THE PHALANGE AND NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTIES BEGAN SEC-
URITY PATROLS AT NIGHT IN EAST BEIRUT. MUNICIPAL WORKERS WENT

ON STRIKE BRIEFLY. END SUMMARY.

2. SARKIS MEETS WITH ASSAD.

PRESIDENT SARKIS MET WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAFIZ AL ASSAD IN LATAKIA ON MAY 31 AND JUNE 1. ACCORDING TO THE BEIRUT PRESS, PRESIDENT ASSAD TOLD REPORTERS AFTERWARDS THAT SYRIA AND LEBANON HAD AGREED ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE LEBANESE ARMY IN SOUTH LEBANON AND OTHER MEASURES DESIGNED TO RE-ESTABLISH STATE AUTHORITY THERE. PRESIDENT SARKIS, ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL LEBANESE NEWS AGENCY, SAID THE DISCUSSIONS HAD ALSO COVERED THE PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN LEBANON "IN THE LIGHT OF SYRIA'S EFFORTS TO HELP ORGANIZE LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS ON SOUND BASES." PRIME MINISTER AL-HOSS, WHO ACCOMPANIED THE PRESIDENT SAID THE TRIP WAS NECESSARY, USEFUL AND FRUITFUL.

3. ARTILLERY CLASHES IN SOUTH LEBANON.

ACCORDING TO DATT SOURCES ON MAY 28 FATAH ARTILLERY UNITS IN THE NABATIYAH AREA INITIATED FIRE ON CHRISTIANS IN QULAYAH AND MARJAYUN AND THE CHRISTIANS RESPONDED. ON MAY 29 THERE WAS LITTLE FIRING. ON MAY 30 CHRISTIANS IN QULAYAH AND MARJAYUN SHELLED MABATIYAH AND NEIGHBORING VILLAGES, ACCORDING TO VARIOUS SOURCES; A COMMUNIQUE OF THE JOINT FORCES COMMAND (PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE LEFTIST) SAID FIVE PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND 22 WOUNDED. THE SAME DAY, PALESTINIANS IN CHATEAU BEAUFORT SHELLED TAYYIBAH AND CHRISTIAN ARTILLERY FIRED BACH, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03061 021420Z

ACCORDING TO A DATT SOURCE (SEE IR 6 857 0168 78). IT IS DIFFICULT TO TELL WHO FIRED THE FIRST SHOT. A UNIFIL SPOKESMAN JUNE 1 DID NOT BLAME ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER, BUT INDICATED THAT MOST OF THE HEAVY FIRING ON MAY 30 WAS FROM CHRISTIAN-HELD QULAYAH, OUTSIDE UNIFIL'S AREA, DIRECTED AGAINST PALESTINIANS AT NABATIYAH, CHATEAU BEAUFORT, AND QA'QA'IYAT.

4. TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE MEETS.

A TRIPARTITE LEBANESE/SYRIAN/PLO COMMITTEE WAS FORMED IN THE WAKE OF THE DOHA STATEMENT ISSUED AFTER THE MAY 24 MEETING BETWEEN YASIR ARAFAT AND PRIME MINISTER SALIM AL HOSS. THE COMMITTEE MET IN SIDON ON MAY 29 TO DISCUSS "ELIMINATION OF ARMED MANIFESTATIONS" IN THE SOUTH, WITH THE FIRST STEPS TO BE TAKEN IN TYRE, ZAHRANI AND NABATIYAH, ACCORDING TO THE DAILY ASH SHARQ. (PLO HAS INDICATED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS THAT IT IS WILLING TO REDUCE PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN AREAS WHERE THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF LEBANESE CIVILIANS.)

5. PFLP MAY JOIN PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

BASAM ABU SHARIF, SPOKESMAN FOR THE REJECTIONIST POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (PFLP), TOLD AFP ON MAY 30 THAT HIS ORGANIZATION WOULD REJOIN THE PLO'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, IF THE PFLP'S PLANS FOR ACTIVITY INSIDE THE WEST BANK AND JORDAN WERE APPROVED. HE WOULD NOT SPECIFY WHAT THESE PLANS WERE. THE PFLP HAD WITHDRAWN FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SEPTEMBER 1974.

6. SHIKKA SHOOT OUT.

PHALANGISTS AND SUPPORTERS OF SULEIMAN FRANJIYAH CLASHED IN THE NORTH LEBANESE TOWN OF SHIKKA ON MAY 31. SIX PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND SEVERAL WOUNDED ACCORDING TO DATT SOURCES. THE SHOOTOUT FOLLOWED ANOTHER RECENT CLASH BETWEEN PHALANGISTS AND FRANJIYAH SUPPORTERS (WHICH ALSO INVOLVED GUARDIANS OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 03061 021420Z

CEDAR) IN BATROUN ON MAY 23 (SEE MAY 25 SITREP).

7. RIGHTIST SECURITY PATROLS.

CAMILLE CHAMOUN ANNOUNCED ON MAY 30 THAT THE PHALANGE AND NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY WOULD UNDERTAKE JOINT PATROLS AT NIGHT IN THE CHRISTIAN CONTROLLED AREAS OF EAST BEIRUT AND OTHER PARTS OF LEBANON. THE LEBANESE FRONT HAD INDICATED PREVIOUSLY IT WOULD UNDERTAKE "SELF SECURITY" MEASURES IN THE WAKE OF LAST MONTH'S CLASHES IN AYN AR RUMMANEH BETWEEN CHRISTIAN MILITIA AND SYRIAN ADF SOLDIERS. THE NEW ARRANGEMENT IS ALSO INTENDED TO REDUCE PHALANGE-NLP ANIMOSITIES.

8. ECONOMIC EVENTS.

A BRIEF STRIKE BY WATER, ELECTRICITY AND MUNICIPAL TRANSPORT WORKERS OVER GOVERNMENT INACTION ON BIDS FOR HIGHER PAY ENDED MAY 31 WITH PROMISES BY THE GOVERNMENT TO STUDY THE COMPLAINTS. A KUWAITI LOAN OF 8 MILLION DINARS (\$26.8 MILLION) TO THE GOL, HEADLINED FREQUENTLY LAST YEAR, WAS SIGNED MAY 29. IN FACT THE LOAN, FOR WORK AT BEIRUT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, WAS SPENT ON RUNWAY RESURFACING AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN 1977 AS THE TREASURY PERMITTED THE DIRGEN OF CIVIL AVIATION TO DRAW AGAINST THE SUM IN ADVANCE. TWO AMERICAN FIRMS WILL OPEN REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES IN BEIRUT IN JUNE: THE INTERNATIONAL BANK OF WASHINGTON AND INSURANCE BROKER FRANK B. HALL. LANE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEFS OF STATE MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT03061
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780231-0377
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806104/aaaadlpf.tel
Line Count: 164
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3970147d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BEIRUT 2977
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2151616
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION: JUNE 2, 1978 1300 HOURS LOCAL
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, ASEC, LE, (AL-ASSAD, HAFIZ), (SARKIS, ILYAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3970147d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014